

following, in general, the principles of the invention and including such departures from the present disclosure come within known or customary practice within the art to which the invention pertains and may be applied to the essential features hereinbefore set forth, and follows in the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:--

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 to read as follows.

1. (Amended) A method of assaying a test compound for an effect on hypertension parameters, said method comprising:
 - (a) providing a non-human mammal whose genome comprises a functionally variant $\alpha 1$ Na,K-ATPase hypertension susceptibility gene;
 - (b) administering said test compound to said non-human mammal; and
 - (c) determining whether the test compound affects hypertension parameters in said non-human mammal relative to hypertension parameters in a non-human mammal whose genome comprises a wild type $\alpha 1$ Na,K-ATPase gene.

Please add new claims 2-5 to read as follows.

2. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said functionally variant $\alpha 1$ Na,K-ATPase hypertension susceptibility gene is set forth in SEQ ID NO:3

3. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said wild type $\alpha 1$ Na,K-ATPase gene is set forth in SEQ ID NO:1

4. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said non-human mammal is a Dahl Salt-sensitive^{HSD} rat.

5. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said hypertension parameters are blood pressure, life span, or renal pathology.